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STOCKTON FIREARMS TRAFFICKER INDICTED

SACRAMENTO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that on April 26, 2007, a federal grand jury returned an eight count indictment charging RICARDO MADRIGAL, 26, of Stockton, with trafficking in firearms without a license and possession of an unregistered machine gun.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Stockton Office of the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives.

The indictment alleges that RICARDO MADRIGAL, who did not have a federal firearms dealer's license, sold a total of six handguns on four different occasions to an ATF informant and/or ATF undercover agent. It also alleges that on April 13, 2007, MADRIGAL traveled to Nevada to acquire firearms to sell, and that on April 15, 2007, he returned to California with nine firearms which he intended to sell in California as part of his illegal firearms business. Finally, the Indictment alleges that MADRIGAL possessed an unregistered machine gun on April 15, 2007. According to the Complaint affidavit filed in the case, MADRIGAL purchased the machine gun in Truckee, California, for \$3,500, from an undercover ATF Special Agent, after which MADRIGAL was arrested.

Also indicted separately on firearm charges yesterday were MARTIN ZAVALA CASTRO, 41, and HERIBERTO OROZCO, 27, both of Stockton. ZAVALA CASTRO was charged with two counts of possession of a firearm by an illegal alien. OROZCO was charged with one count of dealing of firearms without a license and one count of possession of firearms by an illegal alien.

As to MADRIGAL, the maximum statutory penalties are as follows: five years in federal prison for each of the six counts of trafficking firearms without license; ten years for interstate travel to acquire firearms to deal without a license; and ten years for possession of an unregistered machine gun. In total, MADRIGAL faces 50 years in federal prison. Defendant OROZCO faces a maximum statutory penalty of ten years in prison. Defendant CASTRO faces a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison. As to each, however, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors. The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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